

Appl. No. : 10/628,880
Filed : July 28, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A catheter for accessing the heart and engaging a heart valve, comprising:

an elongate flexible body, having a proximal end and a distal end;

an anchor zone on a distal portion of the flexible body the anchor zone being configured to bend at least about 90 degrees to extend at least into an anatomical region adjoining the heart valve; and

at least one tissue manipulator carried by the flexible body proximally of the anchor zone.

28. (Original) A catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the minimum length of the anchor zone on the distal side of the tissue manipulator is at least about 3 cm.

29. (Original) A catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the minimum length of the anchor zone on the distal side of the tissue manipulator is at least about 5cm.

30. (Original) A catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the minimum length of the anchor zone on the distal side of the tissue manipulator is at least about 10 cm.

31. (Original) A catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the tissue manipulator is moveable between an axial orientation for transluminal navigation and an inclined orientation for manipulating tissue.

32. (Original) A catheter as in Claim 27, comprising a first and a second tissue manipulator.

33. (Original) A catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the first tissue manipulator comprises a tissue grasper for grasping a heart valve leaflet.

34. (Original) A catheter as in Claim 27, comprising at least a first component which is axially moveable with respect to a second component.

35. – 77. (Canceled)

78. (New) The catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the anchor zone is configured to extend from a left atrium, through a mitral valve and into a left ventricular outflow tract.

79. (New) The catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the anchor zone is configured to extend through a left ventricular outflow tract into an aorta.

80. (New) The catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the anchor zone is configured to extend into through a tricuspid valve and into a right ventricular outflow tract.

81. (New) The catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the anchor zone is configured to extend through a right ventricular outflow tract into a pulmonary artery.

82. (New) A catheter for performing a procedure on the heart, comprising:
an elongate flexible body, having a proximal end, a distal end and a length sufficient to reach the heart from a femoral vein access;
at least one tissue manipulator on the elongate, flexible body; and
an elongate, flexible anchor zone, extending distally of the tissue manipulator;
wherein the anchor zone is sufficiently flexible and long that it can extend through the mitral valve and into the left ventricular outflow tract to stabilize the catheter while the tissue manipulator is positioned at a leaflet of the mitral valve.

83. (New) A catheter as in Claim 82, wherein the minimum length of the anchor zone on the distal side of the tissue manipulator is at least about 3 cm.

84. (New) A catheter as in Claim 82, wherein the minimum length of the anchor zone on the distal side of the tissue manipulator is at least about 5cm.

85. (New) A catheter as in Claim 82, wherein the minimum length of the anchor zone on the distal side of the tissue manipulator is at least about 10 cm.

86. (New) A catheter as in Claim 82, wherein the tissue manipulator is moveable between an axial orientation for transluminal navigation and an inclined orientation for manipulating tissue.

87. (New) A catheter as in Claim 82, comprising a first and a second tissue manipulator.

88. (New) A catheter as in Claim 82, wherein the first tissue manipulator comprises a tissue grasper for grasping a heart valve leaflet.

89. (New) The catheter as in Claim 82, wherein the anchor zone is configured to extend through a left ventricular outflow tract into an aorta.

90. (New) The catheter as in Claim 82, wherein the anchor zone is configured to extend into through a tricuspid valve and into a right ventricular outflow tract.

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91. (New) The catheter as in Claim 82, wherein the anchor zone is configured to extend through a right ventricular outflow tract into a pulmonary artery.